

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01476 010935Z

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USIA FOR IEA, IOA NICKEL

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TAGS: AFBO ASEC JA

SUBJECT: USIA ENTRANCE NEW CHANCERY BUILDING

REF: TOKYO 1106, TOKYO 0521, TOKYO 16716

SUMMARY: EMBASSY SUBMITS ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR USIS AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARY FACILITIES IN NEW CHANCERY. PROPOSAL A IS MINIMUM REQUIREMENT. PROPOSAL B REQUIRES WASHINGTON RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE. USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH HAS DISCUSSED MATTER DURING VISIT AND SUPPORTS EITHER OF TWO ALTERNATIVES AS ESSENTIAL.

1. CASE FOR MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSED NEW CHANCERY TO INSURE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE OPERATING EFFICIENCY FOR USIS CENTER, INFOMAT AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARY PREVIOUSLY STATED BY EMBASSY IN REFTEL (16716).

2. PROPOSAL A. EMBASSY SUBMITTING SHORTLY SKETCH FOR ITS FIRST RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE WHICH INVOLVES SEPARATE ENTRANCE TO COMPOUND, SEPARATE ENTRANCE TO THAT PART OF CHANCERY HOUSING CENTER, INFOMAT AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARY. PROPOSAL, WHICH MEETS WITH RSO APPROVAL, WOULD INVOLVE JAPANESE POLICE PRESENCE AT SEPARATE COMPOUND ENTRANCE AND UNIFORMED EMBASSY GUARD AT GATE. WE ASSUME POLICE PRESENCE AT THIS ENTRANCE WILL BE LESS THAN AT MAIN COMPOUND ENTRANCE. EMBASSY REGARDS THIS ADJUSTMENT AS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 01476 010935Z

REQUIRED TO INSURE PRODUCTIVE USE OF "PUBLIC FACILITIES"

ASPECT OF NEW CHANCERY. IT IS NOT IDEAL SOLUTION BUT DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT OVER PRESENTLY PLANNED ARRANGEMENTS.

3. PROPOSAL B. WE HAVE BEEN STUDYING POSSIBLE UTILIZATION OF TEMPORARY CHANCERY BUILDING FOR HOUSING AFTER NEW CHANCERY COMPLETED, FOR AMERICAN CENTER, INFOMAT; PLUS COMMERCIAL LIBRARY AND CONCEIVABLY TRADE CENTER; OR PERHAPS ENTIRE USIS OPERATION ALONG WITH COMMERCIAL LIBRARY.

4. ADVANTAGES ARE CLEAR. SECURITY REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY MINIMAL AND THUS PRACTICALLY ELIMINATE ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS TO ATTRACTING USIS AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARY AUDIENCES. AT THE SAME TIME FACILITIES WOULD BE VERY CLOSE TO CHANCERY.

(MOST IDEAL SOLUTION WOULD BE TO CONSOLIDATE ALL USIS IN TEMPORARY CHANCERY BUILDING BUT EMBASSY RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTIES THIS MIGHT IMPOSE).

5. HOWEVER, DIFFICULT FOR US TO DETERMINE WHETHER TEMPORARY BUILDING COULD BE RECONFIGURED TO PERMIT ADEQUATE SPACE FOR MULTI-MEDIA ROOM. SQUARE FOOTAGE NO PROBLEM; RATHER MULTIPLE NUMBER OF VERTICAL BEAMS SERIOUSLY INHIBIT THIS PROPOSAL. WE BELIEVE SEVERAL VERTICAL BEAMS COULD BE ELIMINATED ON THIRD FLOOR BY REINFORCING HORIZONTAL BEAMS, BUT PUBLIC ACCESS IMPEDED BY SINGLE ELEVATOR AND NECESSITY WALKING UP TWO FLIGHTS OF STAIRS. BASIC QUESTION, THEREFORE, IS WHETHER SOME VERTICAL BEAMS ON EITHER FIRST OR SECOND FLOOR COULD LATER BE ELIMINATED. BELIEVE WASHINGTON MUST MAKE THAT ENGINEERING JUDGMENT. CEILING HEIGHT ALSO A PROBLEM BUT PROBABLY NOT INSURMOUNTABLE. FYI VERTICAL BEAMS, WE BELIEVE, PRESENT NO PROBLEMS RE INFOMAT AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARY.

6. THESE TWO ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR IEA PAYEFF, CURRENTLY VISITING, AND HAVE THEIR FULL ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 01476 010935Z

7. THEY ALSO SUPPORT EMBASSY VIEW THAT IF AT LEAST ALTERNATIVE A IS NOT POSSIBLE, USIA WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER RETAINING PRESENT AMERICAN CENTER IN ITS PRESENT LEASED FACILITIES, MOVING ONLY USIS HEADQUARTERS CURRENTLY IN ANNEX TO CHANCERY.

8. FYI. USIS CENTER NOW PAYS \$121,000 ANNUALLY FOR RENT AND THIS, OF COURSE, WILL PROBABLY INCREASE, ANNUALLY.

SINCE TRADE CENTER ALSO PAYS ABOUT \$100,000 ANNUAL RENT, EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS ENGINEERING JUDGMENT ALSO BE MADE BY WASHINGTON ON USE OF TEMPORARY CHANCERY AS LOCATION FOR THAT ACTIVITY AS WELL. SUCH USE OF TEMPORARY CHANCERY NOT YET DISCUSSED WITH COMMERCE DEPARTMENT WHICH WOULD MAKE FINAL APPRAISAL SUITABILITY OF SITE FOR POSSIBLE EVENTUAL RELOCATION OF TRADE CENTER.

9. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES AND APOLOGIZES FOR DIFFICULTIES EITHER RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE POSSES. HOWEVER, IT IS ESSENTIAL CENTER, INFOMAT AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARY FACILITIES PERMIT THEM TO PROGRAM AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE TO COMMUNITIES IN JAPAN IMPORTANT TO USG OBJECTIVES.

10. PLEASE ADVISE RE WASHINGTON COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION.
SHOESMITH

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